THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Since 1-4-85, following transfers of puine Judges from one High Court to another have been made:—

1. Shri Justice T. N. Singh, Judge of the Guwahati High Court, transferred as Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in may, 1985.

2. Shri Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee, Judge of the Sikkim High Court, transferred as Judge of the Calcutta High Court in February, 1986.

3. Shri Justice B. N. Misra, Judge of the Orissa High Court, transferred as Judge of the Allababad High Court, in July, 1986.

Vacancies of the Chief Justices

390. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) as on date, the total number of vacancies of Chief Justices in the High Courts in India; and

(b) the date of each vacancy and the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As on 25-4-88, the Office of Chief Justice was vacant in the following four High Courts from the dates indicated below:

Delhi High Court	17.3.88
Madhya Pradesh High Court	19.1.88
Madras High Court	14.3.88
Patna High Court	2.1.88

The appointment of Chief Justices of the High Courts involves consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities.

The appointment of Chief Justice, Patna High Court is to be notified shortly.

Issue of Identity Cards to voters

391. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recommended to Government to issue multipurpose identity cards to the voters;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to discuss the issue with all the political parties before finalising this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system of multi-purpose identity cards would require cooperation and coordination with a large number of State and Central agencies. The cost to the exchequer in making available such identity cards to all the voters would also be considerable. All these have to be evaluated before a final decision is taken.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Prime Minister's visit to Japan

392. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the major thrust in the discussions between the Prime Ministers of India and Japan during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in connection with Festival of India in Japan;

(b) whether some of the trade issues figured prominently in the discussions especially in view of the trade surplus enjoyed by Japan in International trade;

(c) whether any specific projects have been discussed during these talks; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Japan and the growing under-